

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A ~~digital data selling and buying transaction—~~method for performing selling and buying transactions ~~for an encryption key~~ for a right of use of encrypted content digital data among a plurality of terminal units connected through a communication network, the method comprising:

receiving buying request data representing a buying order and a buying condition for the right of use of ~~encryption key for~~ the encrypted content digital data, the buying request data being transmitted through the communication network;

receiving selling request data representing a selling request and a selling condition for the ~~encryption key for~~ right of use of the encrypted content digital data, the selling request data being transmitted through the communication network;

deciding a transaction price for the ~~encryption key for~~ right of use of the content digital data corresponding to the received buying request data and the received selling request data ~~for the encryption key~~; and

concluding buying transactions and selling transactions ~~corresponding—according~~ to the decided transaction price ~~for the—~~ and transmitting an encryption key for decrypting the encrypted content digital data over the communication network to a buyer of the right of use of the content digital data;

wherein the encrypted content digital data are converted into usable data by a decryption process performed in accordance with auxiliary digital data corresponding to the content digital data, and the auxiliary digital data includes validation period data indicating a period in which the encryption key may be used

and limit period data indicating a period in which the encrypted content digital data may be reproduced.

2. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising storing information with respect to selling transactions and buying transactions.

3. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising publicizing the information with respect to the selling and the buying transactions through the communication network.

4. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the use of the content digital data has been limited.

5. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the content digital data is character data.

6. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the content digital data is picture data.

7. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the content digital data is audio data.

8. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the content digital data is program data for a game.

9. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising storing the content digital data to a device that performs a process for the concluding of the selling transactions and the buying transactions.

10. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the

process for concluding of the selling transactions and the buying transactions is performed corresponding to the transaction price.

11. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the transaction price is stored in a device that performs a process for the concluding of the selling transactions and buying transactions as time elapses.

12. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the process for the concluding of the selling transactions and the buying transactions is performed corresponding to information with respect to people concerned with the selling transactions and the buying transactions.

13. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the information regarding the people concerned contains identification information and personal information of the people.

14. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising publicizing at least part of information regarding a process for the concluding of the selling transactions and the buying transactions through the communication network.

15. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least part of information regarding a process for the concluding of the selling transactions and the buying transactions is stored and the stored information is rewritten.

16. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein buyer-side data that represents the buying condition is data with respect to a buying price.

17. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein buyer-side data that represents the buying condition is data regarding a buying transaction execution date.

18. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein buyer-side data that represents the buying condition is data regarding a buying transaction settlement method.

19. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein seller-side data that represents the selling condition is data regarding a selling price.

20. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein seller-side data that represents the selling condition is data regarding a selling transaction execution date.

21. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein seller-side data that represents the selling condition is data regarding a selling transaction settlement method.

22. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising settling concluded selling transactions and buying transactions and generating data with respect to a paying and receiving process corresponding to the settled result.

23. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 22, further comprising rewriting asset information of personal information of people concerned with settled selling transactions and buying transactions to pay and receive the transaction price with respect to the selling transactions and the buying transactions.

24. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 22, wherein the

content digital data have been encrypted to limit use of the content digital data.

25. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the transaction price is decided for the auxiliary digital data.

26. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising storing the auxiliary digital data to a device that performs a process for the concluding of the selling transactions and the buying transactions.

27. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the conclusion of the selling transactions and the buying transactions is performed corresponding to identification information of the auxiliary digital data.

28. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a process for the concluding of the selling transactions and the buying transactions is performed corresponding to a number of buyer-side data and a number of seller-side data with respect to the content digital data and the auxiliary digital data.

29. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 28, wherein the number of the buyer-side data and the number of the seller-side data with respect to the content digital data and the auxiliary digital data are stored in a device that performs the process for the concluding of the selling transactions and the buying transactions as time elapses.

30. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a process for the concluding of the selling transactions and the buying transactions is performed corresponding to a number of

the content digital data and a number of the auxiliary digital data supplied and received.

31. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 30, wherein the number of the content digital data and the number of the auxiliary digital data supplied and received are stored in a device that performs the process for the concluding of the selling transactions and the buying transactions as time elapses.

32. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the process for the concluding of the selling transactions and the buying transactions is performed with a number and contents of buyer-side data and a number and contents of seller-side data corresponding to the content digital data and the auxiliary digital data, and a number of the content digital data and a number of the auxiliary digital data supplied and received; and the process for the concluding of the selling transactions and the buying transactions comprises:

reading the number of the buyer-side data and the number of the seller-side data corresponding to the content digital data and the auxiliary digital data and the number of the content digital data and the number of the auxiliary digital data supplied and received, the number of the buyer-side data, the number of the seller-side data, the number of the content digital data, and the number of the auxiliary digital data having been stored, and

deciding a transaction price corresponding to the data read in the reading step.

33. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a process for the concluding of the selling transactions and the buying transactions is performed corresponding to information

regarding people concerned with the selling and the buying transactions, identification information of the auxiliary digital data, and the transaction price decided for the right of use of the content digital data and the auxiliary digital data; and the process for the concluding of the selling transactions and the buying transactions comprises:

reading the information regarding the people concerned, the identification information of the auxiliary content digital data, and the transaction price decided for the right of use of the content digital data and the auxiliary digital data, the information regarding the people concerned, the identification information of the auxiliary digital data, and the transaction price decided for the content digital data and the auxiliary digital data having been stored, and

deciding the transaction price corresponding to the data read in the reading step.

34. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising transmitting the content digital data and the auxiliary digital data regarding the concluded selling transactions and buying transactions to ~~a~~ the buyer of the right of use of the content digital data with respect to the concluded selling transactions and buying transactions through over the communication network.

35. - 43 (cancelled)

44. (currently amended) A ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method for performing selling transactions and buying transactions for a right of use of content digital data through one or more of a wired and a wireless communication network, the method comprising:

receiving buyer-side data that represents a buying order for the right of use of the content digital data and a buying condition through the communication network;

receiving seller-side data that represents a selling order for the right of use of the content digital data and a selling condition through the communication network;

deciding a transaction price ~~of~~ for the right of use of the content digital data corresponding to a number and contents of the buyer-side data and a number and contents of the seller-side data; and

concluding the selling transactions and the buying transactions ~~corresponding~~ according to the transaction price;

wherein the content digital data are converted into usable data by a process performed in accordance with auxiliary digital data corresponding to the content digital data, and the auxiliary digital data includes an encryption key, validation period data indicating a validation period in which the encryption key may be used, and limit period data indicating a limit period in which the content digital data may be reproduced.

45. - 57. (cancelled)

58. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the auxiliary digital data includes an attribute value indicating whether the validation period is in effect.

59. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the auxiliary digital data includes an attribute value indicating whether the limit period is in effect.

60. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 44, wherein the



auxiliary digital data includes an attribute value indicating whether the validation period is in effect.

61. (currently amended) The ~~digital data selling and buying transaction~~ method as set forth in claim 44, wherein the auxiliary digital data includes an attribute value indicating whether the limit period is in effect.